JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE WITH AN EXCLUSIVE FIRST LOOK AT THE WORLD OF MEGA MAN X

MEGA MAN™

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SPAZIANTE

"IT'S FUN, IT'S SMART, IT'S ACCESSIBLE, AND IT'S LAYERED" - COMICS ALLIANCE

ISSUE 34

ARCHIECOMICS.COM

INTO THE SHADOWS

IN THE YEAR 20XX, A SUPER ROBOT NAMED MEGA MAN HAS PLEDGED TO STOP THE EVIL DESIRES OF DR. WILY AND PROTECT THE WORLD. MEGA MAN NOW FIGHTS ALONGSIDE HIS FELLOW ROBOT MASTERS TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF EVIL!

MEGA MAN™

PREVIOUSLY...

A Hero's Revival

When the sinister alien Ra Moon rose from his hibernation on Earth and enacted a plan to erase all life from the planet, Mega Man leapt into action and confronted the destructive menace. In the end, humanity was saved and Ra Moon destroyed, but the battle nearly killed Mega Man in the process!

Thanks to the robotic know-how of both Drs. Light and Wily, Mega Man was re-built and revived. While Dr. Wily helped save the Blue Bomber, his criminal record overshadows his good deeds and was taken off to be monitored by the police.

Mega Man, who stands for what is right in all aspects, wishes to clear Dr. Wily's name of the Blackout catastrophe. Rock now leads a research team back to the Landfront Ruins seeking the truth behind Dr. Wily and his connections with Ra Moon. **Mega Man barely made it out of the ruins on his last adventure, and although Ra Moon is destroyed, the evil computer's ambitions are still being executed...**

CHARACTER SELECT

SHADOW OF RA MOON part 1
IAN FLYNN — SCRIPT
TYSON HESSE — PENCILS
GARY MARTIN — INKS
JOHN WORKMAN — LETTERS
MATT HERMS — COLORS

X - FACTOR part 1
IAN FLYNN — SCRIPT
PATRICK SPAZIANTE — LINE ART
JOHN WORKMAN — LETTERS
MATT HERMS — COLORS

PATRICK SPAZIANTE — COVER
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SHADOW OF RA MOON
PART ONE: WAYWARD SON

AMAZON JUNGLE, SOUTH AMERICA.

OUTSKIRTS OF THE DREADED LANFRONT RUINS.

WHOA!

WHUMP!

MEGA MAN
HERO OF
LIGHT LABS

CRACK!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

MEGA MAN!

PHARAOH MAN
TOMB-RAIDING ROBOT

IT'S *OKAY.* THAT PRICELESS ARTIFACT IS DEAD NOW.

...IT WAS A TRAP. IT HAD SPIKES.

AND THAT'S WHY *I* AM SUPPOSED TO BE LEADING THIS EXPEDITION. I'M BUILT TO SPOT THOSE, REMEMBER? YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN YOUR SHARE OF WORK HERE ALREADY. LEAVE IT TO THE REST OF US.

ARE YOU HURT? ARE YOUR JOINTS STIFF? DO YOU NEED ANY ON-THE-SPOT TUNE-UPS?

ROLL
MEGA MAN'S SISTER

RUSH
MEGA MAN'S FAITHFUL ROBO-DOG

I--I'M FINE...IT JUST SURPRISED ME, 'S'ALL.

IT'S *OKAY*, ROCK. THERE'S A DREADFUL FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE. I'M JUST AS SCARED TO RETURN HERE AS YOU.

I-I'M NOT SCARED. I WAS RE-BUILT. I'M FINE.

DR. PEDRO ASTIL
ROBOTICS RESEARCHER

I CAME BACK FROM HERE ALIVE AND TECHNICALLY "FINE." BUT NOT ALL SCARS ARE PHYSICAL.

ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE HERE, DOCTOR? IF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU...

PLANT MAN
BOTANICAL ROBOT

I'LL BE FINE. I NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE.* I NEED CLOSURE.

IT WILL ALSO BE NICE TO LAY DR. WILY'S LUDICROUS CLAIMS TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL. **

YOU DON'T BELIEVE HE'S ANOTHER OF RA MOON'S VICTIMS?

DR. MIKHAIL COSSACK
ADVANCED ROBOTICS INVENTOR

DR. THOMAS LIGHT
GENIUS ROBOTIC RESEARCHER

*MM#29. **MM#33.

I'VE *NEVER* TRUSTED ALBERT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO HELP HIM.

THERE'S GOOD IN ALL OF US, MIKHAIL, AND WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES.

EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE. AND SOMETIMES THEY NEED A THIRD.

SIGH YOU'RE HOPELESS, THOMAS. LET'S JUST FIND WHAT WE NEED TO ENSURE THE BLACKOUT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN. MY POOR KALINKA*** IS STILL HAVING NIGHTMARES...

ROCK? ARE YOU *SURE* YOU'RE *OKAY*?

Y-YEAH, I JUST...FEEL LIKE WE'RE BEING... WATCHED.

***DR. COSSACK'S (HUMAN) DAUGHTER.

ELSEWHERE IN THE JUNGLE...

BREAK MAN AND DR. WILY'S ROBOT MASTERS CONTINUE ON THEIR SECRET MISSION...

MEGA MAN IS HERE. HE HAS ROLL AND THE DOG WITH HIM. DOCTOR LIGHT IS PRESENT, ALONG WITH TWO MORE BEARDED MEN AND TWO MORE ROBOT MASTERS.

ROLL IS...! *AHEM* I'D ASSUME THE MEN ARE DRS. COSSACK AND ASTIL.

THEREFORE, PHARAOH MAN AND PLANT MAN ARE THE ROBOTS.

THERE, THAT SHOULD TOP YOU OFF.

BREAK MAN MEGA MAN'S ESTRANGED BROTHER

GEMINI MAN EXPERIMENTAL DUPLICATING ROBOT

HARD MAN LAND LEVELING ROBOT

TOP MAN SCOUTING ROBOT

NEEDLE MAN MINING ROBOT

SNAKE MAN (CREEPY) SURVEYING ROBOT

MAGNET MAN REMOTE DETONATIONS ROBOT

MUCH OBLIGED.

SPARK MAN WALKING DYNAMO

HEH HEH ...SNOOPING THROUGH DR. WILY'S FILES?

...RESEARCHING.

ANY SIGN OF OUR TARGET?

HE REMAINS ...ELUSIVE.

MEGA MAN AND THE OTHERS ARE *NOT* OUR TARGETS. DO *NOT* ENGAGE THEM. THAT SAID, THEY MIGHT *FINALLY* FLUSH OUT OUR OBJECTIVE FOR US.

KEEP A WATCH ON THEM, SNAKE MAN. LET'S RESUME THE SEARCH. STICK CLOSE. WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS...

"...SHADOW MAN IS AS DANGEROUS AS THEY COME."

SOON, OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE OF THE MOON...

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE HERE, SON. PHARAOH MAN, PLANT MAN, AND RUSH WILL KEEP US SAFE. I'M SURE AUTO COULD USE A HAND IN THE LAB...

N--NO...

DOCTOR WILY SAVED MY LIFE.* I PROMISED HIM I WOULD TRY TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE. I WON'T...I WON'T BREAK MY PROMISE...

I UNDER-STAND. I WISH MORE PEOPLE HAD YOUR INTEGRITY.

*MM#33.

ALL RIGHT, PHARAOH MAN. LEAD THE WAY.

DIS-GRACEFUL FILTH!

FIRST THEY KILL MY MASTER, THEN THEY DARE DESECRATE HIS GRAVE?

I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!

SHADOW MAN NINJA ROBOT

?

THUNK!

GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, ROCK... NOW YOU'RE HEARING THINGS...

MAGNET MAN-- DID YOU GET THE COORDINATES?

AH.

FOUND YOU...

FOUND...

...BUT NOT CAUGHT!

HE'S HEADING NORTH-WEST! TRACK HIM!

I'M NOT SPENDING ANOTHER WEEK HUNTING HIM!

URGH... SEARCH SNAKES CONVERGING...

I'VE CUT HIM OFF! HARD MAN--NOW!

FWASH!

WHUD!

GOING OUR WAY?

YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THIS HARDER ON YOURSELF.

SHING!

VZZT!

THUNK!

...THAT WORKED! *HA HA HA!* I GOT HIM!

RRRGH...

WHUD!

DISGRACEFUL ...DEFEATED BY THESE UNWORTHY RONIN...

FINISH IT!

I HAVE FAILED RA MOON! I HAVE NO PURPOSE!

END MY SHAME!

YOU *DO* HAVE A MASTER. A PURPOSE.

SERVE DOCTOR WILY.

...WHAT?

YOU HUNT ME DOWN JUST TO ASK MY ALLEGIANCE?

YOU WOULDN'T *TALK* TO US. WE WOULD'VE RE-PAIRED YOU, AS WE DID EACH OTHER. WE *HAD* TO GET THROUGH TO YOU SOMEHOW. WE DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE YOU TO MEGA MAN.

PAH! HE CANNOT DEFEAT ME!

RA MOON WOULD ARGUE OTHERWISE--ESPECIALLY SINCE MEGA MAN DESTROYED HIM.

BUT I AM NOT ONE OF YOU. I WAS NOT DESIGNED BY HUMAN HANDS.

EH, DR. WILY HANDLED YOUR REDESIGN WHEN HE HAD RA MOON FIRST FIX YOU.* THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH FOR US.

THERE AREN'T TOO MANY OF US WILY BOTS. WE CAN'T BE TOO CHOOSY ABOUT OUR BROTHERS.

*MEGA MAN VOL. 4 GRAPHIC NOVEL.

...*"BROTHERS?"*

YES. DOCTOR WILY'S ELITE. YOU'D FIT RIGHT IN. THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN AFTER YOU ALL THIS TIME. TO GET YOU TO *LISTEN* TO US. TO JOIN US.

TO SERVE A NEW MASTER ...TO HAVE A PURPOSE AGAIN...

...AND NOT BE ALONE...

YES. I WILL BE ONE OF YOUR...

...BROTHERS.

HA! THERE WE GO! I'M BUILT TO BE HARD-HEADED, BUT *THIS* GUY ...!

GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US. YOU WON'T REGRET IT.

I... BELIEVE YOU. THANK YOU....

WE WERE PRETTY ROUGH WITH YOU. NEED A RECHARGE?

N-NO... THANK YOU.

GIVE HIM SOME SPACE, SPARK MAN! YOU'RE GOING TO SKEWER HIM!

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, NEEDLE MAN!

HEH HEHEE... DO YOU THINK MEGA MAN AND ROLL WOULD BE AS FOR-GIVING TO YOU?

SHADOW MAN'S BEEN "RECOVERED," SO ...MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE OTHERS AT THE BUILDING SITE.

BWOO-WIP!

HE'S RIGHT--THAT CASTLE ISN'T GOING TO BUILD ITSELF. THE DOCTOR WILL HAVE FURTHER ORDERS FOR US THERE.

BWOO-WIP!
BWOO-WIP!
BWOO-WIP!
BWOO-WIP!

HERE'RE THE TELEPORTER COORDINATES.

I SEE. BUT THE NEW MASTER... HE'S CAPTURED... CORRECT? HOW WILL HE SEND US INSTRUCTIONS?

HE'S A GENIUS, MAN. HE'S DONE THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE.*

*MEGA MAN GRAPHIC NOVEL VOLUME 2.

BWOO-WIP!
BWOO-WIP!

BREAK MAN? ARE YOU COMING?

...LATER. I NEED TO FIND SOME ANSWERS.

ABOUT WHAT?

...PERSONAL THINGS. COMPLEX THINGS.

(SHOULD'VE CALLED YOU MELODRAMA MAN.) SUIT YOURSELF.

BWOO-WIP!

BWOO-WIP!

MEANWHILE, DEEP IN THE TEMPLE OF THE MOON...

...AND THERE'S ANOTHER TRAP HERE. HONESTLY-- HOW DID MEGA MAN MAKE IT THROUGH HERE IN ONE PIECE?

WELL, HE *DID* HAVE TWELVE OTHER ROBOT MASTERS BLASTING, MELTING, AND BLOWING UP EVERYTHING IN FRONT OF THEM.

SIGH INELEGANT, BUT EFFICIENT...

WAIT... D-DOES THAT MEAN THIS TUNNEL ISN'T STABLE?

FOR THE *LAST TIME*, WE'LL BE *FINE*.

HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, PEDRO?

HONESTLY? MY HEART'S IN MY THROAT AND PUMPING ICE THROUGH MY VEINS. BUT I *OWE* THIS TO THE REST OF MY TEAM.

HOLD MY HAND, DR. ASTIL. I'M RIGHT HERE. IT'LL BE *OKAY*.

...THANK YOU, ROLL.

STILL WITH US?

Y-YEAH, I JUST... FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED.

THIS TUNNEL WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO TRAVEL IF WE'D HAD QUAKE WOMAN HERE. THERE NEED TO BE MORE DRILLING ROBOT MASTERS.

OH, YES. I COMPLETELY AGREE. ONCE I GET HOME, I PLAN TO START ON--

CAREFUL, EVERYONE!

THE TUNNEL ENDS HERE. THAT MEANS RA MOON--

REMAINS! THE *REMAINS* OF RA MOON!

SIGH THE MOST-LIKELY-JUST-REMAINS OF RA MOON ARE RIGHT THROUGH HERE.

ALL RIGHT, SON, THIS IS IT. REMEMBER: YOU AND THE OTHERS HAVE THE EMP-RESISTANT COATING ON. WE'RE ALL HERE WITH YOU. EVERY-THING WILL BE... *OKAY.*

IT'S SO DARK... M-MEGA MAN ...?

I-IT'S GOING TO BE FINE, ROLL. I WON'T LET RA MOON HURT YOU OR ANYONE ELSE EVER AGAIN.

BACK ME UP, GUYS. HERE WE GO...

GEOWORKS INTERNATIONAL HQ--HOME TO DR. LALINDE...

QUAKE WOMAN A.K.A TEMPO

YOU CAN BRING IN THE REST OF THE SAMPLES IN THE MORNING. LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT.

ALL RIGHT. I WILL BE IN SHORTLY, DOC...MOM.

"MOM?"

TELL ME... WHAT IT MEANS TO CALL SOME-ONE "FAMILY."

WHAT DOES BREAK MAN WANT WITH TEMPO?

WHAT DANGERS AWAIT MEGA MAN IN THE DARK, CURSED TEMPLE?

WHAT IS DR. WILY PLOTTING THIS TIME?

ALL THIS AND MORE NEXT TIME, MEGA-FANS!

CAN YOU WAIT UNTIL NEXT MONTH?!

100 YEARS IN THE FUTURE

From the Journal of Doctor Cain, Archeologist...

April 8th. 21XX
Still nothing. I've been sifting through the dirt since March. trying to find a fossil record which would verify my findings.

So far I've come up empty. Tomorrow I'll move my dig to a new site. Maybe I'll have better luck.

April 9th.
Set up camp at the new site and laid out a preliminary gridwork for the dig. I got some odd readings at location E-46. It looks like something metallic is buried several meters below the surface. I think I'll begin there tomorrow.

April 10th.
I can't believe what I've found! Several meters below the surface were the remains of a lab. Although most of it was damaged, I did manage to find papers that indicate that it belonged to the famous robot designer DR. THOMAS LIGHT. I've begun to review what is left of Dr. Light's notes, and it looks like he was onto a major breakthrough. The notes keep referring to "THE CAPSULE"...

MEGA MAN X FACTOR
PART 1

WRITER: IAN FLYNN
LINE ART: PATRICK SPAZIANTE
COLOR ART: MATT HERMS
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

April 13th. I found it!

The capsule was hidden underneath a collapsed ceiling. Even underneath all the rubble, it has remained intact and was still running some sort of diagnostic test when I found it. There was a warning...

"X" IS THE FIRST OF A NEW GENERATION OF ROBOTS WHICH CONTAIN AN INNOVATIVE NEW FEATURE--THE ABILITY TO *THINK, FEEL,* AND MAKE HIS *OWN DECISIONS.* HOWEVER, THIS ABILITY COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS. IF "X" WERE TO BREAK THE FIRST RULE OF ROBOTICS--"A ROBOT MUST NEVER HARM A HUMAN BEING" --THE RESULTS WILL BE DISASTROUS, AND I FEAR THAT *NO FORCE ON EARTH COULD STOP HIM.*

APPROXIMATELY 30 YEARS WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE WE CAN SAFELY CONFIRM HIS RELIABILITY. UNFORTUNATELY, I WILL NOT LIVE TO SEE THAT DAY, NOR DO I HAVE ANYONE TO CARRY ON MY WORK. THEREFORE, I HAVE DECIDED TO SEAL HIM IN HIS *CAPSULE,* WHICH WILL TEST HIS INTERNAL SYSTEMS UNTIL HIS RELIABILITY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB THE CAPSULE UNTIL THAT TIME.

"X" POSSESSES GREAT RISKS AS WELL AS GREAT POSSIBILITIES. I CAN ONLY HOPE FOR THE BEST. THIS IS THOMAS LIGHT, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 20XX.

"THIRTY YEARS?" IT'S BEEN *CONSIDERABLY* LONGER THAN THAT, DOCTOR. DOES THAT MEAN IT'S SAFE TO OPEN IT, OR...?

...all the indicators on the capsule show green. It SHOULD be safe to open it.

Do I dare? Will this "X" even function after all this time?

CAN I REALLY LET THIS ..."LIVING" LEGACY STAY SEALED AWAY...?

April 14th...

BEEP

HISSSSS

SSSSSSSSS

...today I met "X." Not simply a robot, X is something totally different.

...HELLO?

WHO ...ARE. YOU?

At times, X seems more like a man than a machine.

April 15th.
Light was a genius! I've been going over his design notes, and they are a quantum leap beyond anything the world has ever seen.

Using them as a guide, I may be able to replicate his designs and integrate them into a new generation of robots. Doctor Light wanted to share these remarkable machines with the world, and I intend to see his dream fulfilled! I'll begin transporting X and the rest of Dr. Light's things back to my lab tomorrow.

November 22nd.
With X's help, I have completed the first "Reploid."

Although I don't completely understand how all of Dr. Light's systems work, I was able to make some minor modifications, and the reploid seems to be functioning perfectly.

And to think--some said my genius was wasted on archeology --ho-ho!

The reploid's strength and intelligence seem limitless, and he is able to make his own decisions.

In fact, we got into our first argument. How intriguing!

January 3rd.
The new reploids have been running off the assembly line for several weeks. It's amazing how easily they have been able to adapt to even the most difficult jobs.

It still is a bit odd to see them working side-by-side with humans, but everyone seems to be happy to accept them.

Doctor Light's dream has finally been realized, and I could not be prouder to have played my part in it all.

A WORLD WITH ROBOTS AND HUMANS WORKING AND LIVING TOGETHER...IT CAME ABOUT SO QUICKLY.

DOCTOR LIGHT...YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DECADES BEFORE I'D BE READY FOR THE WORLD...FOR THE WORLD TO BE READY FOR ROBOTS LIKE ME. NOW THERE ARE REPLOIDS BEING PRODUCED BY THE HUNDREDS EVERY DAY. I JUST... WORRY...

"...ARE WE MOVING FORWARD TOO FAST?"

NEXT TIME... *THE FUTURE GROWS DARKER! ENTER--*

THE MAVERICK HUNTERS!

MEGA-MAIL

WRITE TO US @: MEGA-MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX # 419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: MEGAMAN@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Dear Mega-Mail,
I love the Ra Moon arc! It has been building up to this for some time.

It sure has! Even when you think it's over the ambitions of Ra Moon continue to cause chaos and mayhem in Mega Man's world!

I noticed at the beginning of the arc after the crossover Wily said something about controlled chaos. I was wondering if that was a deliberate reference to chaos control from the crossover. Did anyone else notice that?

Hmmmm... perhaps there was some relation... :)

Thanks for the awesome comics guys! Keep up the good work.

Micah G. from Virginia
P.S. I look forward to Mega Man X!

So long, Micah! Let us know what you thought of the first half of the Mega Man™ X story that debuted in this issue!

Dear Mega-Mail,
I love the storyline, and it just gets better and better. I can't wait to see what Mega Man is gonna do next!

Michael M. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Michael! Mega Man will be visiting all sorts of places in the future, so look forward to it!

Dear Mega-Mail,
I have followed the Mega Man™ comics since I discovered them in my freshman year of high school. Since then, I have waited eagerly for every new issue. I have every issue so far, and I'll always follow the Blue Bomber until the very end!

A loyal reader,
Archive "Kora" Wavelength sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

PS: Hats off to all the wonderful artists for the beautiful comic pages and variant cover artwork, and to Ian Flynn for his AMAZING skill in writing these awesome story arcs!

Thanks for writing in, "Kora"! We appreciate your long-time support and kind words! We hope the comic brings you joy and excitment for many years to come!

That's all for now! We'll see y'all next time for part two of Shadows of the Moon and the X-Factor!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO **MEGA-MAIL!**
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC
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MEGA MAN™ 34
COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

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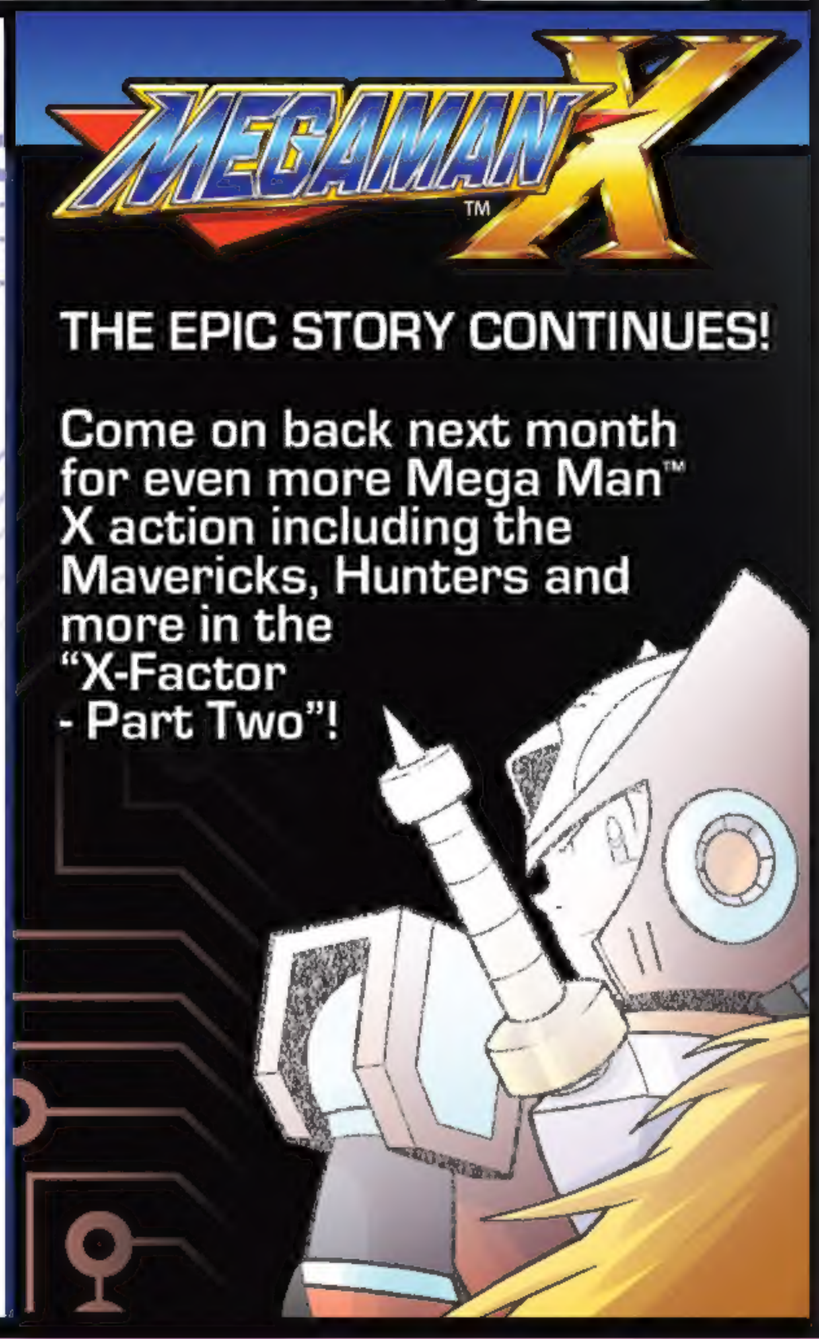
MEGAMAN X
TM
THE EPIC STORY CONTINUES!
Come on back next month for even more Mega Man™ X action including the Mavericks, Hunters and more in the "X-Factor - Part Two"!

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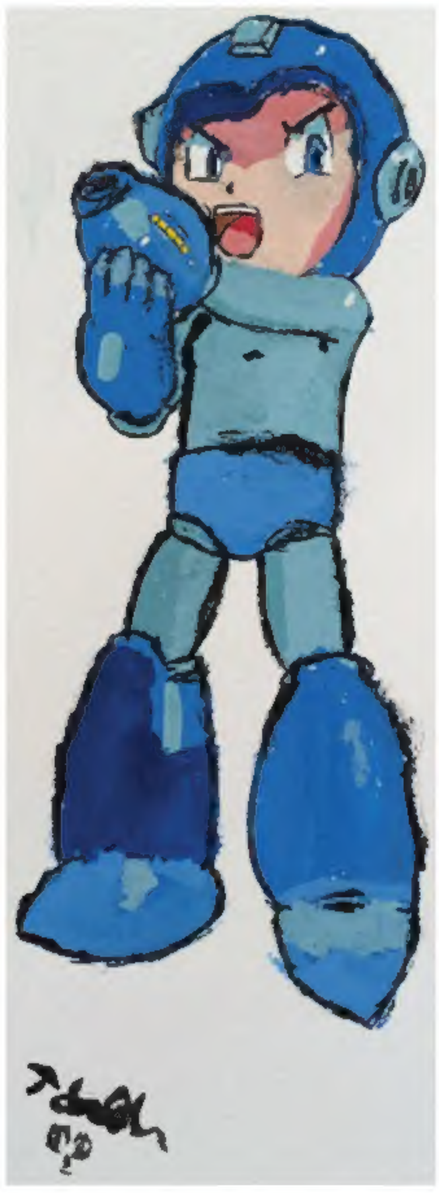
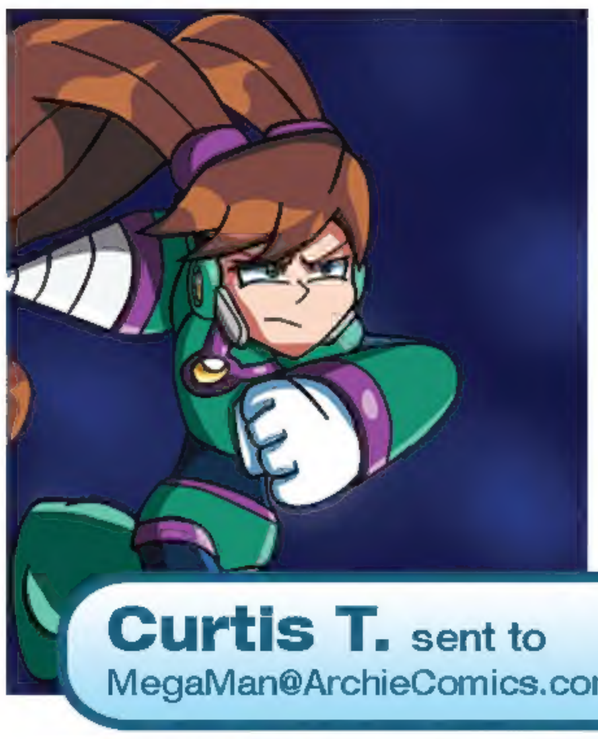
MEGA-MAIL PRESENTS

MASTER WORKS

YOUR MEGA MAN FAN ART

Jonah G. sent to
MegaMan@ArchieComics.com





Curtis T. sent to
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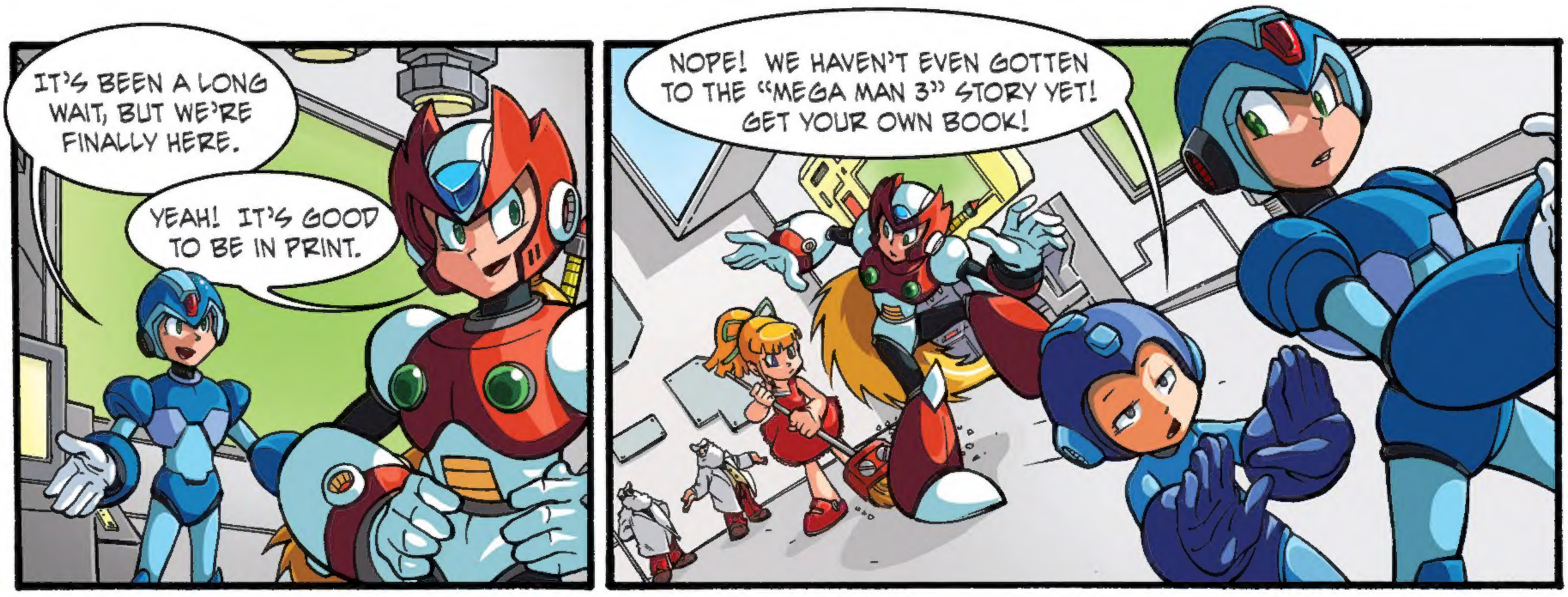
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